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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 250614

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PANAMA WORRIED ABOUT CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

SOME PANAMIAN OFFICIALS ARE WORRIED THAT PANAMA CONCEDED TOO MUCH TO THE US IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE EIGHT BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. A FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISER HAS INFORMED EMBASSY PANAMA THAT THE PANAMANIANS TRUST THE US NEGOTIATORS, BUT NOT THOSE US OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE INTERPRETING THE TREATY ONCE IT IS RATIFIED. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE US SHOULD SEEK TO COAX PANAMA ALONG BY ENDEAVORING TO REASSURE IT THAT THE US DOES NOT HAVE MOTIVES OR GOALS WHICH ARE NOT APPARENT IN THE WORDS OF THE US NEGOTIATORS AND BY PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MOMENTUM IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PANAMA 6861, 12/26.

2. ISRAEL FEARS PALESTINIAN ENTITY

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PAGE 02 STATE 250614

EMBASSY TEL AVIV SEES ISRAEL AS DETERMINED THAT ANY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

PALESTINIAN ENTITY CREATED AS A RESULT OF PEACE TALKS BE UNDER FIRM JORDANIAN CONTROL. AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINE OR A WEST BANK UNDER ONLY NOMINAL UN OR JORDANIAN RULE COULD HARBOR MILITANT NATIONALISTS AND LEFTISTS WHOSE

IRREDENTIST GOAL WOULD BE THE TRANSFORMATION OF ISRAEL INTO A BINATIONAL STATE WITH A PALESTINIAN MAJORITY. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES ISRAEL WOULD INTERVENE MILITARILY IN AN AUTONOMOUS PALESTINE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT SATISFACTORY SAFEGUARDS. (SECRET) TEL AVIV 10406, 12/26 (EXDIS).

3. SAUDI-SOVIET RELATIONS WARMING?

AN EGYPTIAN DIPLOMAT IN BAGHDAD HAS TOLD CHARGE LOWRIE THAT THERE IS A REAL LIKELIHOOD THAT KING FAISAL WILL ESTABLISH "FRUITFUL RELATIONS" WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST STATES. LOWRIE COMMENTS THAT EGYPT SEEMS TO BE SPREADING THIS LINE, POSSIBLY TO FORCE THE PACE OF THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS SO THAT FAISAL WILL NOT BE TEMPTED TO ACTUALLY FORM TIES WITH THE EAST. (CONFIDENTIAL) BAGHDAD 677, 12/26.

4. EMBASSY SAIGON URGES INCREASED AID

IN REQUESTING A HALF BILLION DOLLAR ADDITION TO THE 1.1 BILLION DOLLARS ALREADY PROJECTED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM, AMBASSADOR MARTIN IN SAIGON NOTES THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND FORCES ARE STRONG, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY CAPABILITY IS NOW GREATER THAN AT THE TIME OF THE 1972 EASTER OFFENSIVE. UNLESS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE MADE AVAILABLE, THE FAITH OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND OTHERS IN THE RELIABILITY OF AMERICAN COMMITMENTS WILL BE UNDERMINED. (SECRET) SAIGON 21418, 12/26 (EXDIS). KISSINGER

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